

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-22 are pending. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

5           **Listing of Claims:**

1.       (cancelled)

2.       (cancelled)

10       3.       (cancelled)

4.       (cancelled)

5.       (cancelled)

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6.       (cancelled)

7        (cancelled)

20       8.       (cancelled)

9.       (cancelled)

10.       (currently amended) A method for extracting opinions about a subject of interest  
25 from a text document having a plurality of sentences, the subject associated with a plurality  
of features, the method comprising:

extracting from the document feature terms related to the features most relevant to  
the subject;

for each sentence referring to a feature term, determining whether the sentence  
30 includes an opinion polarity about the feature term; and

for each sentence referring to the subject, determining whether the sentence includes an opinion polarity about the subject,

~~The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of determining whether the sentence includes an opinion polarity includes the steps of:~~ comprises

5 identifying opinion terms in the sentence using an opinion dictionary, each entry in the dictionary having an opinion term, a part-of-speech tag, and an associated opinion polarity;

10 for each sentence having a feature term and an opinion term, parsing the sentence with an English parser to identify grammatical components in the sentence and relationships between said components; and  
identifying an opinion polarity associated with said feature term using the opinion dictionary.

11. (cancelled)

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12. (original) The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the opinion polarity associated with the feature term is identified based on an opinion rule.

13. (cancelled)

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14. (original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the rule base comprises a plurality of rules each having a relationship term, a target of the opinion, and a polarity of the opinion.

25 15. (original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the rule base comprises a plurality of rules each having a relationship term, a source of the opinion, and a target of the opinion.

30 16. (original) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the target of the opinion is a component of the sentence to which the opinion is to be assigned.

17. (original) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the source of the opinion is a component of the sentence of which opinion polarity is to be assigned to the target.

18. (cancelled)

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19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

10 21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

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